

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 174

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of J. Don Hill of Kingsport.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of J. Don Hill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hill was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, J. Don Hill was born in Clay County, North Carolina, to Thomas Bunyan and Hazel Mae Yates Hill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hill began his estimable career in the automotive industry as a salesman in 1955, and, with an interest in trucks, his career led him to truck franchises, from which he divested himself in 1992 to focus only on cars; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, he went on to own and operate thirty-one automobile franchises, which represented seventeen manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hill astutely served as president of the Kingsport New Car Dealer Association and as a member of the Tennessee Automotive Association, the National Automotive Dealers Association, and the American International Automobile Dealers Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Mr. Hill became a member of the Gideons and served on the Tennessee State Cabinet, including serving as Tennessee State President from 1973-76 before later serving as an international representative in Africa and Europe as well as a group leader for Extension Action Programs in several countries, and he was active in community affairs through service in the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, J. Don Hill was the recipient of various honors, including receiving the Andrew Jackson Award in 2001, which recognized his

community service and contributions to the automotive industry among Tennessee Automotive Association members, and, in 2006, he was honored with the Toyota President's Award and the Elite of Lexus Award, earning more than twenty President's Awards over the course of his laudable career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hill was an active and devout member of Calvary Baptist Church, which he served as Chairman of the Deacons, Personnel, and Finance committees; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding gentleman was also a trustee of the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital's Executive Committee, the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, and the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hill was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Jeremy Franklin Chadwell; and a brother, Bruce H. Hill; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of more than fifty-seven years, Jeana Davis Hill; his children and their spouses and children, Rick and Becky Hill and their sons, Zachary and CJ; Donna Hill and her daughter, Laura Beth Cox; Deborah Chadwell and her son, Gabriel; Chris and Sommer Hill and their son, Ryder; and Brantley and Sara Beth Burris and their children, Riley and Ava; his two sisters, Jean Law and Joline Cagle; his brothers-in-law and their spouses, Herbert and Bertha Davis, and Clifford and Lonia Davis; his aunt, Florence Robinson; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, J. Don Hill leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of J. Don Hill, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.